

SENATE No. 400

To accompany the petition of James Dunn for legislation to further extend the scope of the word "veterans" and words of similar import in the General Laws to include persons who served in the Merchant Marine, so called. Civil Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT FURTHER EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE WORD "VETERANS" AND WORDS OF SIMILAR IMPORT IN THE GENERAL LAWS TO INCLUDE PERSONS WHO SERVED IN THE MERCHANT MARINE, SO CALLED.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section twenty-one of chapter thirty-
2 one of the General Laws, as amended, is hereby fur-
3 ther amended by inserting after the word "States"
4 in the fourth line, as appearing in chapter one hun-
5 dred and thirty-seven of the acts of nineteen hundred
6 and thirty-three, the words:— or in the merchant
7 marine, so called,— so as to read as follows:— *Sec-*
8 *tion 21.* The word "veteran", as used in this chap-
9 ter, shall mean (1) any person who has served in the
10 army, navy or marine corps of the United States or
11 in the merchant marine, so called, in time of war or
12 insurrection and whose last discharge or release from
13 active duty therein was an honorable one, regardless
14 of any prior discharge or release therefrom, or (2) any
15 person who has distinguished himself by gallant or

16 heroic conduct while serving in the army, navy or
17 marine corps of the United States and has received
18 a decoration designated as the congressional medal
19 of honor from the president of the United States or
20 the secretary of war, or from a person designated by
21 the president or the said secretary to act as the per-
22 sonal representative of the president or said secre-
23 tary for the presentation of such decoration, and is
24 recorded in the files of the war department or the
25 navy department of the United States as having re-
26 ceived such decoration; provided, that the person
27 claiming to be a veteran under this section was a
28 citizen of the commonwealth at the time of his in-
29 duction into such service or has resided in the com-
30 monwealth for five consecutive years next prior to
31 the date of filing application with the commissioner
32 under this chapter; and provided, further, that any
33 such person who at the time of entering said service
34 had declared his intention to become a subject or
35 citizen of the United States and withdrew such in-
36 tention under the provisions of the act of congress
37 approved July ninth, nineteen hundred and eighteen,
38 and any person designated as a conscientious objector
39 upon his discharge, shall not be deemed a "veteran"
40 within the meaning of this chapter.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter one hundred and fifteen of
2 the General Laws, as amended, is hereby further
3 amended by providing that persons who served in
4 the merchant marine, so called, in time of war shall
5 be entitled to the same benefits and cash or other
6 disbursements as are provided by said chapter for
7 persons who served in the military or naval service
8 of the United States or of the commonwealth in time
9 of war.